

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/19/2011 has been entered. Claims 56 and 63 have been amended and new claims 69-101 have been added. Claims 56-101 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 05/19/2011 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 56-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reiche US 6,092,196 in view of Birrell et al. US 5,805,803 (hereinafter Birrell).

As per claims 56, 63, 77, 87 and 98-101, Reiche teaches a method of authorizing a portable communication device to access a network resource, the method being performed at a

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network management system in communication with the portable communication device via a network, the method comprising:

receiving, from a portable communication device via a network, a request to access a network resource [column 8, lines 47-61];

determining, on a processor, whether the portable communication device is authorized to access the requested network resource, the determination being based at least in part on comparing an attribute included in the request to a user profile database (i.e., authorization/authentication based special URL or cookie is included in the header of the request, column 8, lines 53-64, column 9, lines 57-67 and column 10, lines 39-49); and

redirecting, upon determining that the portable communication device is not authorized to access the requested network resource [column 9, lines 6-11], the portable network device to an authentication system, by performing a method comprising:

storing the request to access the network resource [column 8, line 65-column9, line1];

communicating a modified request to a redirection server, the modified request being based upon the request to access the network resource [column 9, lines 6-11];

receiving, from the redirection server, a browser redirect message comprising a resource locator that identifies the authentication system, the browser redirect message configured to cause the portable communication device to be redirected to the authentication system [column 9, line 6-11]; and

sending, to the portable communication device, a modified browser redirect message based upon the browser redirect message, the modified browser redirect message configured to

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indicate that it was sent by the network resource (i.e., redirection process that is transparent to the user, column 9, lines 6-11);

whereby the portable communication device is enabled, by being redirected to the authentication system, to submit authentication-related information so that the portable communication system may be authorized to access the requested network resource [column 9, lines 11-55].

Reiche is silent on the request being configured with network settings that do not correspond to the network.

In the same field of endeavor, Birrell teaches a method of authorizing a portable communication device to access a network resource, the method being performed at a network management system in communication with the portable communication device via a network, the method comprising:

receiving, from a portable communication device via a network, a request to access a network resource [column 3, lines 23-25, column 4, lines 5-13], the request being configured with network settings that do not correspond to the network (i.e., column 4, lines 5-18, lines 47-64 and column 5, lines 27-37). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to employ the teachings of Birrell within the system of Reiche in order to enhance compatibility and usability of the system.

As per claims 57 and 78, Reiche further teaches the method further comprising updating the user profile database upon determining that the portable communication device is entitled to access the requested network resource [column 9, lines 45-55].

As per claims 58, 64, 79 and 88, Reiche further teaches the method further comprising maintaining in the user profile database a historical log of the portable communication device's access to the destination network [column 9, lines 45-55].

As per claims 59, 65, 80 and 89, Reiche further teaches the method wherein the request is an HTTP request [column 8, lines 47-61].

As per claims 60, 66, 81 and 90, Reiche further teaches the method wherein determining whether to authorize the portable communication device to access the requested network resource further comprises denying the portable communication device access where the user profile database indicates that the portable communication device may not access the destination network [column 8, lines 53-64, column 9, lines 57-67 and column 10, lines 39-49].

As per claims 61, 67, 82 and 91, Reiche further teaches the method wherein the attribute included in the request is one of a port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address [column 9, lines 45-65].

As per claims 62, 68, 83 and 92, Reiche further teaches the method further comprising: receiving, from the portable communication device, a second request to access a second network resource, and determining that the portable communication device is authorized to

access the second network resource, based at least upon a MAC address included in the second request [column 10, lines 39-64].

As per claims 69 and 93, Reiche further teaches the method wherein the user profile database further stores information relating to an authorized time period associated with the portable communication device, and wherein the determination of whether the portable communication device is authorized to access the requested network resource is further based on an amount of time that has elapsed in relation to the authorized time period stored in the user profile database [column 9, lines 45-67].

As per claims 70 and 94, Reiche further teaches the method wherein the attribute included in the request comprises a link-layer header of a network packet and wherein the determination of whether the portable communication device authorized to access the requested network resource is based on the link-layer header of the network packet and on identification information provided automatically by a browser of the portable communication device [column 9, lines 35-67].

As per claims 71-76, 84-86 and 95-97 Reiche further teaches the method wherein the modified request comprises a change to one or more attribute within the request [column 9, lines 6-11].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BEEMNET DADA whose telephone number is (571)272-3847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BEEMNET DADA/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2435